

09-08-09

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

----- In the Matter of -----)	Docket No. 2008-0274
)	
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION)	
)	
Instituting a Proceeding to Investigate)	
Implementing a Decoupling Mechanism for)	
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., Hawaii)	
Electric Light Company, Inc. and Maui Electric)	
Company, Limited.)	
_____)	

PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

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FILED

HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE'S JOINDER

TO

HAIKU DESIGN AND ANALYSIS'S

POST-HEARING OPENING BRIEF

FILED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

AND

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance ("HREA") hereby joins Haiku Design and Analysis's Post-Hearing Opening Brief, which was filed on September 8, 2009.

In joining Haiku Design and Analysis ("HDA"), HREA would like to emphasize and comment on the following three aspects of HDA's Post-Hearing Opening Brief:

1. Revenue Per Customer Alternative. HREA support's HDA's proposed Revenue Per Customer ("RPC") Alternative to the HECO/CA's proposed Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("RAM"). HDA's approach appears to be simpler and easier to implement. It is also similar to the approach being implemented in Idaho Power Company's decoupling mechanism. Thus, if the Commission decides to consider HDA's RPC alternative, HREA recommends that the Commission consult with the Idaho Public Utility Commission regarding IPC's progress on decoupling;

2. Impacts on HECO's Financial Health. As noted in HDA's Opening Brief, decoupling with a RAM is viewed by HECO necessary for its financial health, i.e., to avoid bond rating downgrades and annual rate cases. However, HREA understands HECO's bond rating has recently been downgraded from a BBB to a BBB-. Thus, the questions now are whether the downgrade can be reversed with decoupling and a RAM or RPC, or what might happen without decoupling and a RAM or RPC;
3. Need for a Performance Metric. HREA wholeheartedly agrees with HDA that a performance metric is appropriate as a *quid pro quo* to ensure that ratepayers will see rapid progress in moving off fossil fuel to renewables and energy efficiency. While there has been some discussion among the Parties about a performance metric, there has not been enough time for the Parties to reach agreement on a specific performance metric. Thus, HREA concurs with HDA's recommendation that the Commission direct the Parties to come back at a later time with a recommended performance metric, rather than delaying the docket process further at this point. That said, HREA recommends a draft performance metric prepared by Mike Champley, which we understand will be submitted by Blue Planet with their Opening Brief, is a good starting point for discussion on a performance metric.

Dated: September 8, 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii



President, HREA

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The foregoing Joinder was served on the date of filing by Hand Delivery or electronically transmitted to each such Party as follows.

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DATED: September 8, 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii,